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RUARY 8, 2007  
VOL. 131  
No. 6

# MISSISSIPPI **BAPTISTS**

# History chronicles state's church music

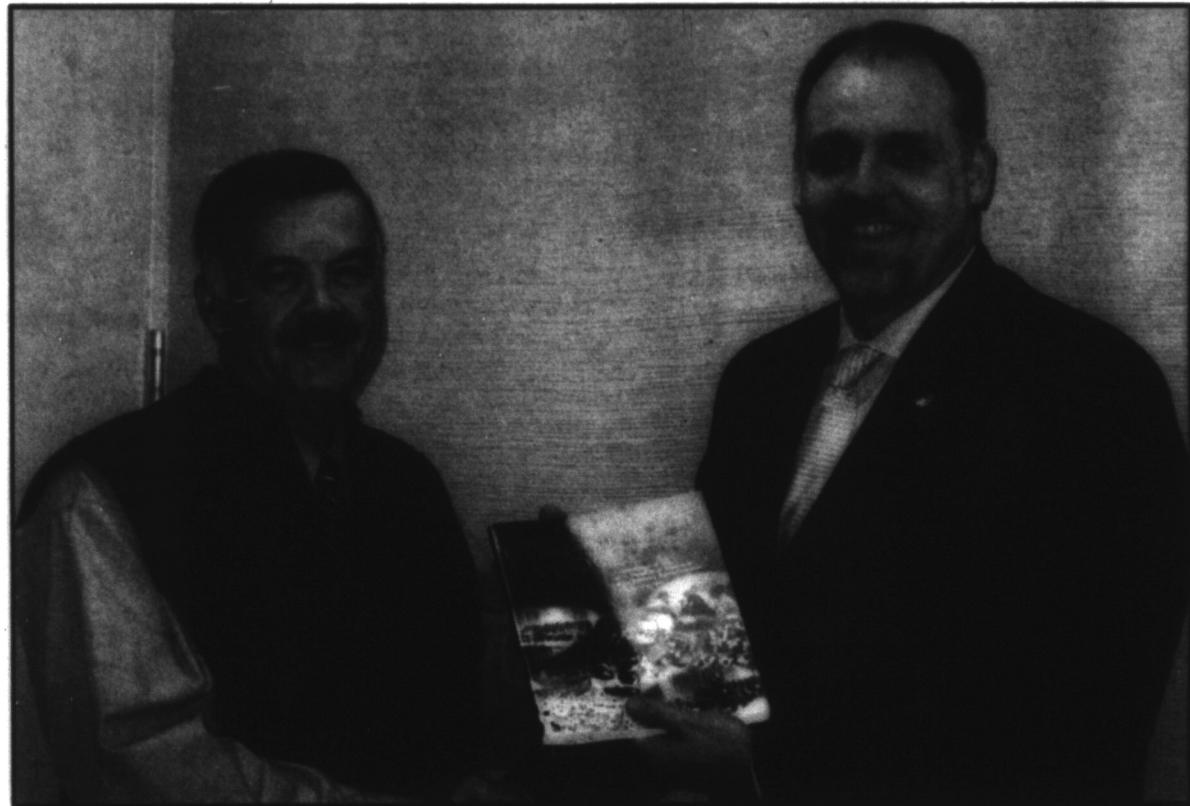
**By Tony Martin**  
*Associate Editor*

Sharing the Song of Jesus: A Celebration of 60 Years of the Church Music Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, might be considered a labor of love on many levels. As Graham Smith, director of the Church Music Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB) states in the forward to the book, "I believe that at intervals it is important to take a practical look backwards, reassess our beginnings and remember our past in order to plan more effectively for the future." The book, written by L. Lavon Gray, minister of music at First Church, Jackson, is a testament to those faithful music leaders in Mississippi Baptist churches.

"About 2001, as I began to think about our 60th anniversary, I wanted to do something lasting," said Smith. "I wanted to do something for our heritage. We are living in such crucial days in church music in Mississippi and the convention, I thought it was necessary for folks to see how church music came about. I knew Lavon had done his doctoral dissertation for Louisiana Baptists, and I wanted him to do the same story for us. So I felt led that Lavon was the one to write it." The book debuted at the Mississippi Baptist Convention in 2006.

Much of the oral tradition of the musical heritage had been lost. In the mid 1970s, Anne W. McWilliams Morse, then an editorial assistant with *The Baptist Record*, conducted research on the history of the department, including first-person interviews with family members of Luther Harrison and W.C. Morgan, the first directors of the church music department. "I met her," said Gray, "and by chance and God's blessings, Graham found an old notebook that was a series of papers she had written in rough draft, including these interviews. She'd compiled editorials from the *Record*, and I don't know what we would've done without these materials."

Gray knew from his project in Louisiana what direction he wanted to take, and Smith encouraged him to tell stories. The primary research came from *The Baptist Record*, beginning in 1900, and Gray pulled all the editorials and stories about church music. "Mississippi played a vital role in the whole history of church music in the Southern



**LABOR OF LOVE** — Graham Smith (left) director of the Church Music Department, MBCB, and Laron Gray, minister of music, First Church, Jackson, are shown with *Sharing the Song of Jesus*, a 60-year history of the Church Music Department.

Baptist Convention, because of some of the personalities and people involved," said Gray. "We supplemented that material with information in the church music department, and made four or five trips to the Southern Baptist Historical Archives and Library in Nashville. I had no idea when I accepted the challenge of writing this history that it would span two states, three churches, and five years!" Gray began the project while serving at First Church, McComb, and continued the work while at Taylors Church, Taylors, S.C., and in Jackson.

"For the first time, readers can see how organized church music began for Southern Baptists and Mississippi Baptists," said Smith.

"I tried hard to not make it just factual," said Gray. "I wanted to share it in a story format, so if I could include something about a 50-year-tenured church organist in a church in Copiah County, I'd try to include something about her. There is a lot

of emphasis on the people who make up the history of church music in the state, most of whom are nameless."

"We are standing on their shoulders," said Smith, "and so many of them we just don't know. Being a minister of music is a fairly new position. I wanted other musicians in the state to know why were doing, what were doing, other than the fact that were called by God, instead of being just an entertainer."

The church music department has mailed a copy of the book to every Baptist church in Mississippi. Extra copies are available through the church music department for \$10 plus \$2 shipping. "It wasn't a project to make money," said Smith, "but a project for our heritage and our future. It was our best attempt to bring together in a cohesive state relevant details and personalities God has blessed us with over these years."

## *Miss. CP sets new record*

Gifts to the work of the Lord through the Mississippi Cooperative Program (CP) in January set a new all-time record in the first month of the new fiscal year, according to Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson. The January total of \$3,982,875, eclipsed the old mark of \$3,501,219, recorded in January 2003. The new record represents a rise of \$485,152, or 13.9%, over January 2006 giving of \$3,497,723 and \$1,550,565, or 63.74%, more than the \$2,432,310 given the previous month. The 2007 Mississippi CP budget of \$33,188,934 — also a record amount — was approved by messengers to the 2006 annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. A total of \$2,765,745 is needed each month to meet the convention board's budget for 2007. In addition to helping support more than 10,700 missionaries in the U.S. and around the world through affiliation with the Southern Baptist Convention, Mississippi CP helps fund such activities as the State Baptist Student Union Retreat on February 16-17 at Camp Garaywa in Clinton and the Christian Performing Arts Festival on February 23-24 at Broadmoor Church, Madison.

## **SBC CP slows in January**

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — Giving to the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program in January was \$19,996,592, 2.2%, or \$450,810 below the \$20,447,401 received in January 2006, according to a news release from SBC Executive Committee President and Chief Executive Officer Morris H. Chapman. However, fiscal year-to-date contributions of \$67,348,758 moved ahead of last year's giving pace by 2.24%. (The Southern Baptist Convention fiscal years begins in October.) The \$25,230,191 in designated gifts received last month were \$2,722,785 below the \$27,952,976 received in January 2006, a decrease of 9.74%. For the SBC Cooperative Program Allocation Budget, the fiscal year-to-date total of \$67,348,758 is 103% of the \$65,316,141 budgeted to support Southern Baptist ministries globally and across North America. The Cooperative Program is Southern Baptists' method of supporting missions and ministry efforts of state and regional conventions and the Southern Baptist Convention. Gifts are given by church members, whose churches retain a portion for their ministries and forward the remainder to state Baptist conventions. Those conventions retain a portion for state programs and activities, and forward the remainder to the Southern Baptist Convention.



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VOLUME 131 • NUMBER 6  
(ISSN-0005-5778)

Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street, Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$9.35 per year payable in advance. Economy plans available for cooperating Mississippi churches. Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS. Member, Association of State Baptist Papers. Deadlines: News items — one calendar week prior to requested publication date. Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to requested publication date. All submissions are subject to editing.

# The promise, politics of Gardasil

Parents, here's another word you can put on your watch list: Gardasil. It's not really an actual word, though. It's one of those manufactured jumbles that pharmaceutical companies place on new drugs coming to market.

Gardasil is the name of Merck's first-of-its-kind vaccination against certain strains of the human papillomavirus (HPV), which researchers believe are responsible for about 70% of all cervical cancers and 90% of all cases of genital warts. The federal Food and Drug Administration has approved the drug as a vaccine against those diseases, as well as certain other forms of cancer believed to be caused by HPV.

Sexual contact is the primary way HPV spreads, and one recent study concluded that up to 80% of American women may be exposed to the virus before their 50th birthday. Fortunately, the body's defenses usually destroy HPV, but in some women the virus takes hold and helps turns normal cervical cells into a malignancy.

Gardasil appears to be a monumental step forward in the battle against cancer — and several particularly deadly forms of cancer, to be sure — so what could possibly be controversial about the three-shot, \$360 regimen that would provide almost 100% protection against certain forms of cervical cancer and genital warts? As usual, politics and money are involved.

Merck, the drug's manufacturer and marketer, recommends administering the drug to all healthy females between the ages of nine and 26, and the younger the better because the vaccine is ineffective once a person has had sex and been infected with HPV. Merck is also studying the application of the vaccine for males who may have been infected and are spreading the disease to girls and young women.

Conservative groups are concerned,



however, about administering the vaccine to children at such a young age, and the erroneous conclusions those children may draw about promiscuous sexual behavior. The vaccine does not protect against all forms of cervical cancer, nor does it protect against other sexually-transmitted diseases such as AIDS, syphilis, and gonorrhea.

Not least important, some parents see the oncoming rush to mandate the vaccine for minors as a challenge to their right to make such decisions on behalf of their children.

That's exactly what is happening in Texas right now, and money and politics are playing a large role in the ensuing uproar.

Republican Governor Rick Perry has trashed those parental authority concerns and circumvented the legislative process in that state by issuing an executive order to force all sixth-grade girls to be vaccinated with Gardasil. The executive order also

commands state health authorities to make the vaccine available free of charge to uninsured girls or girls whose insurance company will not pay for the shots. Medicaid will also be forced to cover the cost of the shots under Perry's executive order.

Why institute such an unprecedented and desperate executive order instead of going through the Texas Legislature? Apparently, because there's not much support for abrogating parental rights among legislators. Equally apparent is the political pressure Perry is under to boost the drug.

With 18 states considering whether to mandate Gardasil for schoolgirls, the drug's manufacturer Merck is stepping up efforts to get the regimen adopted in as many locales as possible.

"I cannot think of a bigger boost (for sales of the drug)," said Steve Brozak, who analyzes the drug industry for W.B.B. Securities, in a recent Associated Press interview.

Associated Press also reports that Merck doubled its spending on lobbyists in Texas and hired Perry's former chief of staff, now a powerful lobbyist. The push was on for adoption of the vaccine but legislators were reluctant, so Perry issued his executive order to get it done right away. Under Texas law, the Legislature has no power to rescind Perry's order.

Other states have felt the pressure, too. Maryland Senator Delores Kelley recently withdrew her bill to mandate Gardasil for schoolgirls in that state after complaints that there were already too many vaccine requirements. Michigan legislators declined to pass similar legislation after expressing concerns for parental rights and family privacy.

Gardasil may turn out to be a great medical advance, and one that we can all support in the long run — but not at the expense of steamrolling parental rights.

Well-funded and well-connected, the Merck push to adopt Gardasil will probably make its way to Mississippi once the larger states fall into line. Be prepared, and come informed to the debate.

## GUEST OPINION:



### This year's 'ultimate' game

By Kelly Boggs, editor  
Louisiana Baptist Message

ues for tickets were \$600-\$700. However, many of those in attendance shelled out three to five times the face value. Advertisers spent \$2.6 million for a 30-second television commercial. An estimated 140 million watched the game via television.

The consulting firm Challenger, Gray & Christmas Inc., estimates that U.S. companies could suffer lost wages of approximately \$820 million as Americans focus on the Super Bowl. The unproductive time includes chatting about the game, planning parties, organizing betting pools, and researching big-screen TVs.

What caused the Super Bowl to go from a football game that many ignored, to the behemoth event that now captivates

America's attention? One contributing factor is America's obsession with entertainment. Make no mistake about it, professional football is entertainment.

The Super Bowl is hyped as crowning achievement in professional sports. In fact, in many fans' minds a player's career cannot be considered a success unless he triumphs in the "ultimate game."

However, one of the main reasons for the Super Bowl's success lies in the fact that so many Americans live without a sense of purpose. In a life that is void of meaning or purpose, only experience holds any real significance. A person who has no meaning or purpose motivating his or her life seeks to find fulfillment in experiences, so a big event like the Super

Bowl becomes an opportunity to share a moment and seek something significant that will add value or a sense of meaning to life.

Sports provide a wonderful outlet for those drifting through life without purpose. There is always the next game or the next season to which to look forward. Some even live vicariously through their favorite players. After this year's Super Bowl many fans will boast, "We won," when the only effort they expended was to walk to the refrigerator for a snack.

On Monday, the "ultimate game" was talked about and individual plays rehashed. However, the only lives that will be richer for experience are the players that participated and the Miami businesses that benefited from Super Bowl spending. Many people will have shared an experience, enjoyed a game, and engaged in a gaudy distraction — but few lives will have been changed.

The Super Bowl is, after all, only a football game. When it is played next year, how many people actually will be able to recall this year's "ultimate game?"

Boggs may be contacted at [www.baptistmessage.com](http://www.baptistmessage.com). His commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press.

# Pastor Scot honored for standing firm

NEW YORK (BP) — Christian leaders from six continents gathered in New York City on January 26 to recognize an Australian pastor who became one of the first people indicted under the country's new "religious vilification" law, which makes public criticism of any religion a hate crime.

Daniel Scot, an Assemblies of God minister from Brisbane, received the Kairos Journal Award for his refusal to "compromise truth for fear of jail." The award is given annually to individuals who demonstrate faithfulness to Scripture and pastoral courage. It also honors those who respond to what the journal calls a "kairos moment," a moment that calls for timely Christian action.

In 2002, Scot found himself a defendant in the courts of Victoria in Australia. Three Muslim converts accused the pastor of vilifying Islam after he had given a series of lectures about the differences between Islam and Christianity. Scot's indictment touched off a four-year legal battle. He was convicted and ordered to apologize to Muslims in a series of advertisements in Melbourne at a potential cost of nearly \$50,000.

Scot would not purchase the advertisements and launched an appeal in 2004.

Challenging the teachings of Islam is nothing new for Scot, even if the costs are high. A gifted mathematician, he competed for a teaching position with Muslim scholars at the University of Punjab in Pakistan. The positions were normally reserved for Muslims, but Scot studied Islam, passed an examination

about the religion and was named to the faculty.

In 1986, Pakistan's government amended its legal code, making insults against Muhammad a capital crime. Anyone who publicly declared Jesus as the Savior would likely face a quick death. Five senior professors cornered Scot on Christmas Eve, encouraging him to convert to Islam or face losing his teaching post — or worse.

"They said to me, 'This is a golden opportunity for you to convert to Islam,'" Scot told the award dinner audience, "but I said in my heart, 'This is a golden opportunity to share the Gospel with five senior professors.'"

Scot turned the discussion to the issue of salvation, questioning the Muslim professors how they could know if they achieved it. They had no answer, but after the discussion they filed a complaint with the government. The next day, a colleague at the university told Scot, "Your life is in danger. I cannot protect you."

Scot, who was born into a Christian family in 1951, went into hiding, moving from location to location where he was sheltered by friends. He assumed that he was headed for death, but his wife intervened.

"You have this madness to be a martyr for Jesus," his wife told him. "What will happen to your wife and five children?" In 1987, Scot and his family fled to Brisbane, Australia. He began lecturing on mathematics and soon earned a teaching position at the University of Queensland.

In December 2006, the Supreme Court of Victoria overturned the decision of the lower court that had convicted Scot



Scot

and sent the case back to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal. The court also ruled that the judge who issued the guilty verdict against Scot could not sit in judgment in any new proceedings.

Justice Geoffrey Nettle said the lower court had erred, misinterpreting honest and comparative discussions of religion for hate speech. It is "essential to keep the distinction between

the hatred of beliefs and the hatred of their adherents steadily in view," Nettle noted.

Scot's case tallied a cost of more than \$500,000 in legal fees. The high court ruled that the Islamic Council of Victoria must pay half of the cost of the original appeal from 2004. Scot's legal troubles, however, may be far from over as he continues to face opposition from Muslims in Australia.

## Looking back

10 years ago

According to the 1995 Annual Church Profile, the typical Mississippi Baptist church has 207 members and 150 resident members, with 85 enrolled in Sunday School, 51 in Sunday School attendance, and 68 in morning worship.

20 years ago

Harry Vickery, head of The Mississippi Mission, reports \$22,808,739 has been pledged in the \$40 million unified endowment campaign for Mississippi College, William Carey College, Blue Mountain College, and the Baptist Children's Village.

60 years ago

Golden Gate Seminary, Berkeley, Calif., reaches a record high enrollment of 347.



MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS

## THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

FEBRUARY 8, 2007

VOL. 131

NO. 6

## Leaders issue warnings

NEW YORK (BP) — Much of the church is asleep or in "deep, dark denial" about Islam, Anglican Archbishop Henry Luke Orombi of Uganda said in New York City at the Kairos Journal Award dinner on January 26. "As I look forward into the 21st century, it seems to me the great global conflict will be between Christianity and Islam," the Ugandan leader said, adding that in Uganda, Muslims are attempting to conquer "not so much by the sword but by the dollar." There, Libyan dictator Muammar Gadaffi built a national mosque as a "gift" to the people. Newly discovered oil resources in Uganda are finding their way into Muslim hands, and Muslim financiers are pouring money into the country — despite the fact that only 12% of Uganda's population is Muslim. Muslims also are offering vocal opposition to laws that protect women's rights because, Orombi said, "these are not in the Koran." Mark Durie, vicar of St. Mary's Anglican Church, Caulfield, in Melbourne, Australia, said failure to address Islam with the Gospel will result in falling prey to it. At present, he said, the future of the world is less than certain. "The religious future of India is up for grabs as the Dalits, the lower class, leave Hinduism. China has 90-100 million Christians. Will it be the next great Christian superpower at the end of the 21st century? Europe is gradually sinking under immigration. One in three babies born in France today is Muslim. Will France be a Sharia state with a nuclear bomb in this century?" Baroness Caroline Cox, a conservative member of Britain's House of Lords who has worked to alleviate the persecution of Christians in Muslim lands, said in a videotaped message that the current religious and political climate is similar to the 1930s. "Are we going to be Chamberlains or Churchills?" she asked. "Militant Islam is the greatest threat to our social, political and cultural heritage."

## WHAT A WAY TO LIVE



### YOU CAN RESPOND RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)

2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)

3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)

4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

*"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)*

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.

It seems like about every year or every couple of years a study will come out revealing what generally we know already if we observe life at all, and that is people who seem to live life at its best and often live life the longest have a buoyant, upbeat, positive, put-a-smile-on-your-face and go-out-and-meet-the-day attitude. However they are able to accomplish it, they always seem to be able to get up, go out, and travel on the sunny side of the street. That is not easy to do because sometimes it rains all day long. At other times frightening storm clouds roll in like a tidal wave. There is something about some folks that just seems to dispel all the clouds, and rays of sunshine break through any way.

I am always interested in these studies because it is my observation that these are the people who actually make life worth living. They are the ones who can fill a room up with joy and positive vibrations even if they do not speak a word. It seems that they not only live life in gear and engaged but their spirit and influence seems to charge other folks' batteries. It not only raises the level of productivity, but also raises the bar on folks' well-being and self-worth. You just watch, and you will see that there are some folks who will constantly drain you. If you are blessed, you will have opportunity to be around those people who sustain you. I am so thankful and can honestly say that I have met more of these kinds of folks than any other kind.

Of course, we interact with many other types of folks. Some folks pain you and others may stain you. There are those teaching, mentoring types who train you, and there are those special people throughout the



# Directions

**Jim Futral**, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

journey who may restrain you.

Recently, I had the wonderful privilege of meeting a lady in one of our fine churches who just absolutely exuded excitement about the Lord and a genuine thrill about life. When I met her she was excited to be on her way to teach a Sunday School class. As we talked for a moment what she did not tell me was that she was in the middle of extensive chemotherapy for cancer. As we stood and talked and others joined in the conversation they brought up the subject. It was obvious that the cancer and the treatment had affected her, and had no doubt taken away some of her resistance as her immune system was compromised by the chemotherapy. It had taken most of her hair, but it had not robbed her of her smile, her loving relationships, or her delight in serving the Lord. We visited for a few minutes, she told the group that had gathered that she had to get on to her Sunday School class and to be praying for her as she would be having some more chemo that week, and off she went.

Later, as we went into the worship service it was apparent that at the Sunday School time the lesson, the relationships, and the class experience had all gone well because she was talking to folks and they were thanking her. After a wonderful experience in worship, as people came by she spoke to me and said, "I want to give you something that I think you will really enjoy." I

had no idea what she was talking about, but that night when she returned for the evening worship service she handed me an envelope and inside was a typed one sentence statement of life and philosophy. It was a philosophy of life that I had already seen expressed in her exuberance about church, the Lord, friends, and the future. The statement was, "Life should NOT BE a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in an attractive and well preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways with chocolate in one hand, a diet soda in the other, and a body thoroughly used up, and totally worn out for Jesus screaming, 'WOO HOO! WHAT A RIDE!'

What a statement, what a spirit, what a faith, and what a wonderful understanding of the Word and the wonder that our Lord Jesus brings to our lives when He says, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). Probably most of us have the kind of faith that we see ourselves riding gracefully along on a beautiful, gentle, majestic steed only to find ourselves most of the time on the back of a wild, bucking bronco called life. We hold on tightly not because we enjoy it but because we don't want to be splattered on the ground. The options seem to be few and not the ones we would prefer so we try to ride on, but here is where some people have tapped into something dif-

ferent. They do not just see a bigger picture — they see the really big picture which brings into focus the amazing will of God that permits them to interrupt the normal bumps, bruises, and bounces of life in light of eternity and also in light of the fact that God can always bring about good to His children.

These folks seem not to just measure the momentary but rather the eternal, not just the visible circumstances but the invisible Creator, and not just the crisis but also the Christ that transcends all of those moments. It did not matter then nor does it matter now what the situation because when Jesus walks in, it will be different. Things are going to change. He attended a funeral and rather than having a eulogy there was a resurrection. He attended a wedding and rather than a mess of shortsighted planning a miracle broke out. He walked into the middle of a storm where His disciples were afraid, the winds were howling, and suddenly peace fell on the place. He could just be walking down the street in the midst of a crowd and a lady who had been battling ill health and disease for a dozen years would reach out in faith and brush the hem of His garment only to find that her life was changed in a moment.

Is that not wonderful? That is the Jesus we know. That is the Savior we worship. That is why when we gather on Sunday we look around and spot those folks who are singing with a twinkle in their eye. That is why you hear a testimony in the hallway from someone who may be going through the deepest valley and yet the bright and morning star lights his or her pathway. What a way to live!

The author may be contacted at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. E-mail: [jfutral@mbcb.org](mailto:jfutral@mbcb.org).

## North Carolina Baptist Minister to Host

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## REVIVALS

**Escatawpa Church, Escatawpa: Revival, Feb. 18-21; Sun., 10:50 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., noon and 7 p.m.; Mickey Dalrymple, Columbus, speaker; Hubert Greer, Wesson, music.**

**Friendship, McComb: Revival, Mar. 2-4; Fri.-Sat., 7 p.m.; Sun., 10:45 a.m. and 1 p.m.; Ted Bowlin, McComb, speaker; Tim King, McComb, music; LaVerne Summerlin, pastor.**

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What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

# HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

February 8, 2007

HouseTops is a **Baptist Record** supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's **Communication Services**.

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More info in brochure ... coming soon!

Pastor/Leadership Development Department

## STATE BIBLE DRILLS 2007

| DATE                 | LOCATION   | REGISTRATION               | DRILLS BEGIN           |
|----------------------|--|----------------------------|------------------------|
| TUESDAY<br>April 10  | Picayune, FBC<br>Batesville, FBC                               | 2-4:30 p.m.<br>2-4:30 p.m. | 2:30 p.m.<br>2:30 p.m. |
| THURSDAY<br>April 12 | Brookhaven, FBC<br>Grenada, Emmanuel BC                        | 2-4:30 p.m.<br>2-4:30 p.m. | 2:30 p.m.<br>2:30 p.m. |
| FRIDAY<br>April 13   | Hattiesburg, Main Street BC<br>Meridian, Poplar Springs Dr. BC | 2-4:30 p.m.<br>2-4:30 p.m. | 2:30 p.m.<br>2:30 p.m. |
| SATURDAY<br>April 14 | Madison, FBC<br>Pearl, McLaurin Heights BC                     | 9-noon<br>9-noon           | 9:30 a.m.<br>9:30 a.m. |
| MONDAY<br>April 16   | Tupelo, FBC<br>Tupelo, Harrisburg BC                           | 2-4:30 p.m.<br>2-4:30 p.m. | 2:30 p.m.<br>2:30 p.m. |
| TUESDAY<br>April 17  | Starkville, FBC  | 2-4:30 p.m.                | 2:30 p.m.              |
| THURSDAY<br>April 19 | Laurel, Salem Heights BC                                       | 2-4:30 p.m.                | 2:30 p.m.              |
| SATURDAY<br>April 21 | Selection Tournaments<br>Clinton, FBC (times inside)           |                            |                        |

Call your **Baptist Associational office** for the date and location for your **Associational Drill**. The church and associational paks were mailed the first of February to every church and association requesting **Bible Drill** information for 2007.

DISCIPLESHIP & FAMILY MINISTRY DEPARTMENT  
(601) 292-3284 or 1-800-748-1651  
E-mail: dhicks@mbcb.org

## WITNESSING THROUGH MEDIA AWARDS AND WORKSHOP

May 4-5, 2007  
PARK PLACE BAPTIST CHURCH, PEARL, MISS.

### AWARDS COMPETITION

- Entries in the Awards Competition must have been produced or aired between April 3, 2006 – March 1, 2007
- Awards entry deadline is March 15, 2007
- Awards entry cost is \$12 per entry



Communication Services

### BANQUET AND WORKSHOP

- Banquet and workshop registration deadline is April 16, 2007
  - Registration for all activities (Banquet and Workshop) is \$25 per person
  - For groups of four or more, registration for all activities is \$20 per person

WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION COMING TO YOUR MAILBOX SOON!

## LITERACY MISSIONS WORKSHOPS

English as a Second Language  
Adult Reading and Writing  
Chronological Bible Storying

Where: First Baptist Church, Louisville  
205 South Church Avenue

When: February 23-24, 2007  
ESL & ARW – Fri. 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
& Sat. 8:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.  
CBS – Fri. 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.  
& Sat. 8:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Cost: \$25 for ESL & ARW, \$10 for CBS

Contact Person: Mrs. Tonya Stevenson  
P.O. Box 547, Louisville, MS 39339  
662-773-6246  
tonya@fbclouisville.org

Deadline to register: February 9 for ESL  
& ARW; February 16 for CBS

## Northeast Single Adult Day Retreat

### Featuring Dianne Swaim

Little Rock, Arkansas  
Renowned singles speaker  
Author, "Divorce Really Hurts  
in the Church"  
Founder and Director, Fresh Spirit

Saturday, March 31

Ervin Brown Training Center  
Hwy. 304 W.  
Eudora, Miss.  
(662-429-5417)

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Cost \$5 (includes lunch)  
(Mail your check by Monday, March 26,  
to X-Tended Missions Network  
Association, P.O. Box 381  
Hernando, MS 38632.  
For more information call 662.429.5033

▪ Refreshments ▪ Fun  
▪ Door Prizes ▪ Praise Team

Sponsored by: X-Tended Missions Network  
and MBCB

## MISSISSIPPI ACTEENS CONVENTION

**MAC ... March 30 – April 1, 2007**  
**Blue Mountain College, Blue Mountain**

**Cost: \$25**

**Highlights Include:** Missionaries, drama, music, breakouts, large and small group sessions and more.

**Preregistration is required. The deadline is March 15, 2007.**

**Lodging:** Lodging is available at the BLUE MOUNTAIN COLLEGE GYM, for a cost of \$15 per person, limited to the first 100 who register. Lodging at the GYM is limited to the first 50 who register. Call 601-292-3316 or stay Inn Express at New Albany.

**WHO:** Open to girls in grades 7-12 and their leaders. Membership in an Acteens group is not required to attend.

**For more information, contact Alicia in the wMu,**  
at 1-800-748-1651 ext. 316, or 601-292-3316.

## Extreme Student

### "LIVING TO THE EXTREME!"

CAMP EDITION – GRADES 7-12

Hinds Community College Raymond, Mississippi

DATES, PASTORS & WORSHIP LEADERS

|                              |            |
|------------------------------|------------|
| Jon Daniels, Will Reedy      | June 4-8   |
| Gary Permenter, Will Reedy   | June 11-15 |
| Clay Stegall, Kevin Williams | June 15-19 |
| Ken Hester, Kevin Williams   | June 19-23 |
| Kevin Cooper, Tom Edwards    | June 23-27 |

**FOR MORE SUMMER YOUTH CAMPS PROGRAM INFORMATION:**  
Huay Dedmon, Student Ministry Specialist  
1-800-748-1651, ext. 320(601) 292-3320, [hdedmon@mcb.org](mailto:hdedmon@mcb.org)

**Thursday, Feb. 27**  
**FBC, Greenville**  
(662-334-9452)

**FIVE LOVE  
LANGUAGES  
FOR SINGLES**

**Thursday, March 1**  
**FBC, Grenada**  
(662-226-3661)

### **EXPERIENCING FORGIVENESS**

Becky Brown, recording artist  
and author, Raymond

### **"ONE-WON-1" (SINGLE REACHING SINGLE)**

Glenn Shows, MBCB, Jackson  
6:30 p.m. – Baked Potato/  
Chili Supper  
Adjourn – 8:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, March 6**  
**Easthaven BC, Brookhaven**  
(601-833-2597)

### **SINGLENES WITH A PURPOSE**

Becky Brown, Raymond

### **"ONE-WON-1" (SINGLES REACHING SINGLES)**

Don Lum, director, Evangelism  
Department MBCB, Jackson  
6:30 p.m. – Chili Supper  
Adjourn – 8:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, March 20**  
**FBC, Kosciusko**  
(662-289-5575)

### **PICKING UP THE PIECES**

Miss Chocolate  
Gwen Williams  
renowned speaker  
and author  
Picayune

### **SINGLE PARENTING**

Dot Day  
Family Counselor  
Crystal Springs  
6:30 p.m.  
Supper: Finger Food

**SINGLES  
CONFERENCE  
(No cost)**

El Companerismo Hispano invita al III retiro de mujeres.

### **THE HISPANIC FELLOWSHIP**

Invites you to the 3rd Annual Hispanic Women's Retreat

**"Si has perdido la capacidad de soñar,  
hoy es el tiempo de recuperarlo,  
Cuéntaselo a Dios y cree que Él hará  
que tus sueños se hagan realidad"  
"Cualquier cosa que ustedes pidan en mi  
nombre, yo la haré." Juan 14:13**

**"If you have lost your capacity to dream, today is  
the time to get it back, Tell God about it and  
believe that He will make your dreams a reality."  
"And I will do whatever you ask in My name, so that  
the Son may bring glory to the Father."  
John 14:13**

### **Theme – "Dreams of a Woman" Tema – "Sueños de Mujer"**

Conference leader Conferencista – Elizabeth Rosales – Guatemala/California

Music and Conference leader for teens – Alabanzas Especiales Mariel Rosales, Guatemala/California

Place – Camp Garaywa Lugar – Camp. Garaywa

Date – March 16-17, 2007 Fecha – Marzo 16-17, 2007

Ages – 12 years and up Edades – 12 en adelante

Cost - \$35 (12 and up) \$5 (children 0-5 years) Costo - \$35 (12 hasta adultas), \$5 por niño (0-5 años)

Note – bring sheets, pillow, personal items Nota – Traer sábana (Twin), almohada, cobija

Deadline Date – March 1, 2007 Ultimo plazo para registrarse – 1 de Marzo

For registration form and more information – [www.mcb.org/events](http://www.mcb.org/events) or  
call Paula Smith 800-748-1651, ext. 336, [psmith@mcb.org](mailto:psmith@mcb.org)

## **Church Facilities & Furnishings**

March 20, 2007

8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Temple Baptist Church

West Campus

5220 Old Hwy. 11

Hattiesburg, MS



**THE CONFERENCE IS FOR PASTORS, STAFF MEMBERS,**

For info:

Keith Gordon

or Kay McDonnell

MBCB Church Building Services

P.O. Box 530

Jackson, MS 39205-0530

Phone: 1-800-748-1651

or 601-292-3305 in Jackson

# Sync Up

The Power of Working Together



Interdenominational  
President: Senior Pastor  
Bill Taylor, First Baptist Church  
Associate Pastor: Dr. Mark Williams

Sunday School Department: 662-232-1111

## A Workshop for Pastors, Ministers of Education, Sunday School Directors

April 10

North Oxford Baptist Church, Oxford

April 11

Camp Garaywa, Clinton

April 12

Petal-Harvey Baptist Church, Petal



OLDER CHILDREN'S

## Bible Drill Camp 2007

July 5-7

Central Hills Baptist Retreat

For all Boys and Girls in your church who have completed Grades 3-6

Cost \$95 with \$50 deposit due with preregistration

### Camp activities include:

Bible Study, Bible Memorization, Bible Skill, Worship, Camp Fire Service, Morning Watch, Time with Southern Baptist Missionaries, Horseback Riding, Rifle Range (safety/marksman-ship), Swimming, Canoeing, and 4 square.

Each church group must have a male counselor for every 7 boys (or portion thereof) and a female counselor for every 7 girls (or portion thereof). Children are together with the counselors from their church all during camp.

Camp begins with check-in at 2 p.m., Thursday, July 5, 2007, and ends at noon on Saturday, July 7.

Program questions should be directed to the Discipleship and Family Ministry Department, 1-800-748-1651 or dbrashier@mcb.org.



## CAMP GARAYWA 2007

### GA ACTEENS Camp Dates

June 4-8 GA Camp

June 11-15 GA Camp

June 18-22 GA Camp

June 25-29 GA Camp/Acteens Camp

July 9-13 GA Camp

July 16-20 GA Camp

July 23-27 GA Camp

For more information, call Alicia at 1.800.748.1651 ext. 316, or 601.292.3316.

## FAMILY SUMMIT

For: All Ministers, Associational Family Leaders, and Laypersons leading family ministries

Date: Thursday, March 1 – Camp Garaywa, Clinton

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Cost: \$10 – includes lunch

Features: Panel discussions on issues of the family in the 21st Century

Speaker: Bernie Cornell LifeWay Family Consultant • Nashville

Your pre-paid registration is due by Wednesday, February 21.

For more info, contact Discipleship & Family Ministry at gshows@mcb.org or call (800) 748-1651.

## MISSISSIPPI KIDS' CAMP

2007

Camp Waukaway • Waukaway Springs Christian Retreat Center

▪ Vossburg, Miss. (Located outside of Laurel, Mississippi)

Mississippi Kids' Camp July 9-11

## PRIMARY colors

▪ Worship ▪ Church Bible Study

Mississippi Kids' Camp July 11-13

▪ Hydro-Sports

▪ Recreation

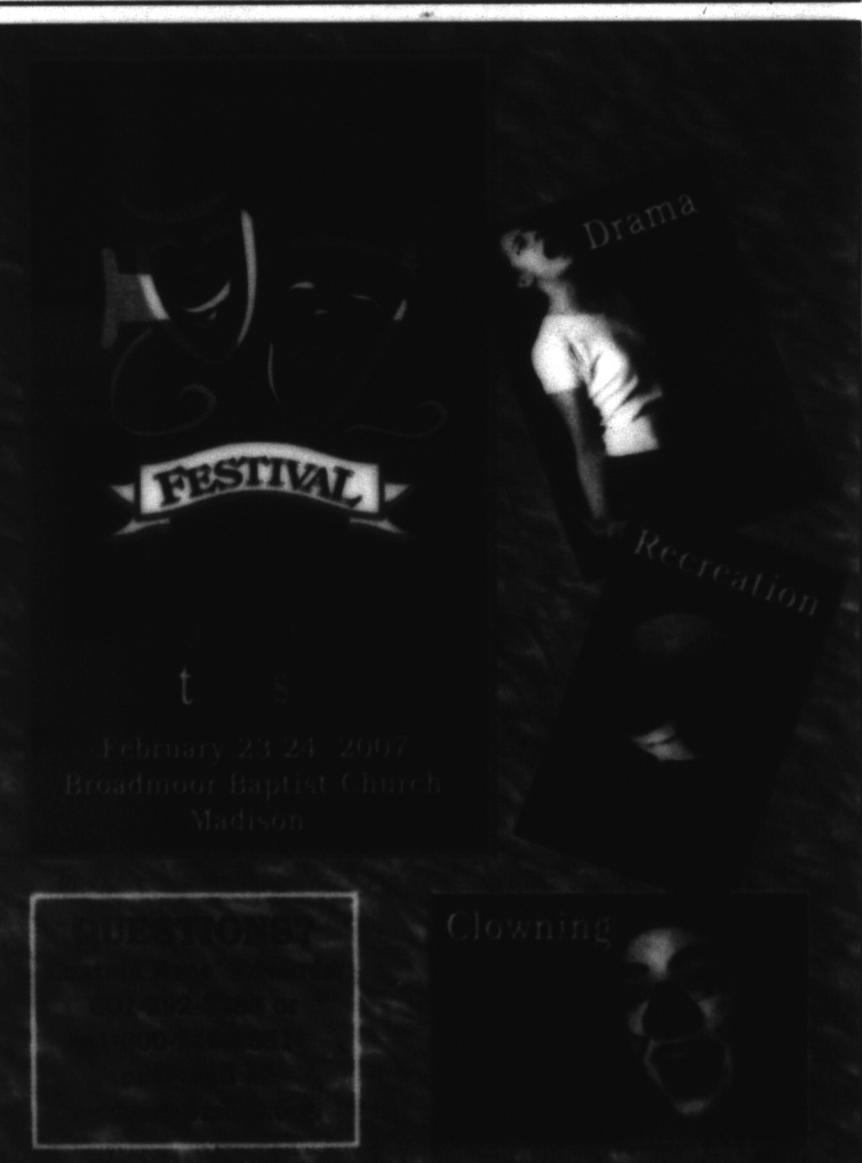
Mississippi Kids' Camp July 26-28

▪ Waterfront Spring Fed Lake

▪ COST \$150

▪ FOR COMPLETED GRADES 1-6

For registration information, etc., please contact MBCB Conference Office at (601) 292-3304. For program information, visit [mskidscamp.com](http://mskidscamp.com).



## Pray this day for...

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

February 9-22, 2007

*"I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone--for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness."*

*1 Timothy 2:1-2*

(1) Race Reconciliation Emphasis (CAC): Pray for Christians of all races to model the love and grace of God to all races; (2) On January 15, the newly elected president of Ecuador, Rafael Correa, began his first term. Pray for God's will to be done in Ecuador and for the Christians to be strong and to trust in God.

Pray for the wind of God's purifying Spirit to blow throughout our convention and bring a spirit of repentance and revival to our hearts. Pray that each pastor and church member will ask God to do whatever is necessary in their personal lives to mold them into Christlikeness for the praise and glory of God.

(1) wMu Focus on Missions Week, Feb. 12-18; (2) "Pass It On" Youth Ministers and Volunteer Leaders Conference, Central Hills. Pray for youth ministers and leaders to hear God's direction on how to live a Christlike life before their youth and how to teach their youth to do the same before their peers.

Many of the major cities in the Sverdlovskaya Oblast of Russia have no evangelical churches of any kind. Pray for a group from Arkansas making an exploratory trip to one of these cities with the goal of establishing a partnership with a Russian pastor who has been called to plant a church in this city.

(1) "Pass It On" Youth Ministers and Volunteer Leaders Conference, Immanuel BC, Hattiesburg; (2) The Valencia, Venezuela, Crusade is this week. Pray that the speakers presenting the Word will be full of the Holy Spirit of God as they preach and for immediate faithful discipleship and follow up on decisions.

There are many Christians from different countries living on the Arabian Peninsula. They work 40 to 60 hours a week in regular jobs, but their hearts desire is to share the truth of God. Pray that they will have opportunities to share their faith with their colleagues and for protection and perseverance.

E is a young man in Brazil who has been visiting the church that meets in J's house. He and his brother were born virtually blind. He had hoped to have cornea transplants, but there appears to be more that is needed, so the doctors are continuing to run tests. Pray for E's faith and God's healing touch.

A. is a Fulani seeking the Truth. He has heard many stories from God's Word and is even sharing them with people in the village. Pray that A. will continue to seek the Truth, will continue to share what he hears, and that ultimately he will trust Christ as his Lord and Savior.

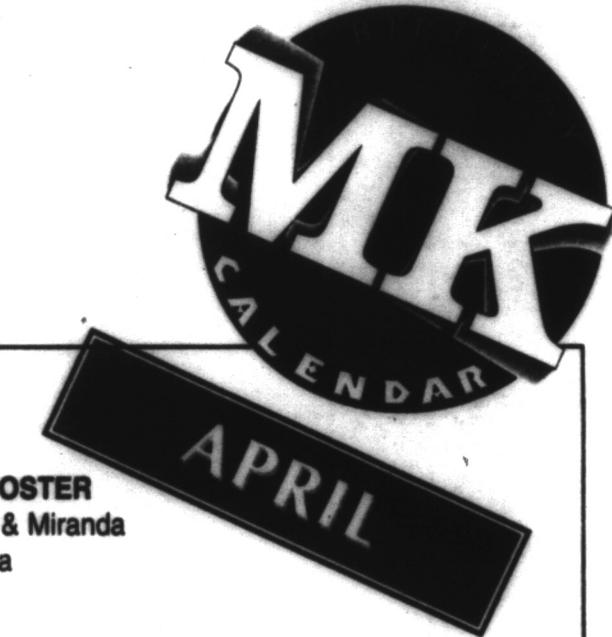
(1) MBCEF Convention, Park Place BC, Brandon (CG); (2) "Pass It On" Youth Ministers and Volunteer Leaders Conference, FBC, Tupelo. Pray for our youth ministers and leaders to know God's Word so well that they will be able to show students God's heart and directions for their lives directly from the pages of the Bible.

(1) AMD Interpretation Meeting, Camp Garaywa, February 22-23. Pray for our AMD's to hear God's voice and direction about how to be a catalyst motivating their associations in mission out-reaches.

Ask God to reveal Himself to many West Africans who will hear the gospel message this year through the personal testimonies of believers, cassettes, DVDs, radio broadcasts and other oral means. Pray that seekers will accept the truth about Jesus Christ and have the courage to commit their lives to Him.

G struggles between his commitment to come to Bible study and learn more about being a Christian and his involvement in the political aspect of his nation, St. Lucia. Pray for God as he deals with these two important claims upon his life, asking that he will decide to make Jesus his first priority.

Called the most animistic of the Senegalese peoples, the Bassari (population: 9,000) live in the most remote part of southeastern Senegal. The Bassari are in need of an evangelical presence. Pray for the Lord to call out witnesses to the Bassari, specifically Senegalese believers willing to reach out to their "neighbors."



## Church-Minister Relations Department Ministries

### Looking for Ministerial Staff?

We offer training for search committees, resumes, and salary information.

Contact Frank Harmon, director: fharmon@mbcb.org  
Pam May, ministry assistant: mpmay@mbcb.org  
601-968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651

### Transitional Pastor Training

March 19-22, 2007  
Baptist Building

Sponsored by: LifeWay Christian Resources and Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Applications must be approved by LifeWay

For more information, contact:  
Church-Minister Relations Department  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board  
601-968-3800 or 1-800-748-1651  
or [www.lifeway.com](http://www.lifeway.com)

4/1/93

**MR. DREW W.**  
Parents: Matt & Shea  
Last Frontier

4/3/89

**MISS ALICIA RACEY**  
Parents: Michael & Annette  
South America

4/11/89

**MR. AUSTIN BROWN**  
Parents: Dwayne &  
Donna  
Central & Eastern Europe

4/14/90

**MISS SAMANTHA TABOR**  
Parents: Michael & Jeana  
South America

4/20/00

**MISS MARY KATELYN SIMPSON**  
Parents: Adam  
& Kristen  
Central & Eastern Europe

4/28/87

**MISS REBEKAH RAY**  
Parents: Michael & Linda  
Central & Eastern Europe

4/28/91

**MR. CALE LITTLE**  
Parents: Bob & Amy  
West Africa

**ENCOURAGE  
AN MK TODAY  
WITH A CARD!**  
No magazines or  
periodicals can be  
forwarded.

4/29/93  
**MR. CHRISTOPHER CARLTON**  
Parents: David & Pamela  
Central, Eastern & South  
Africa

Due to security reasons full names or region of service may not be published.  
Cards will be forwarded. Please send all to: Child's name, Parent's name,  
MBCB wMu MK Birthdays, PO Box 530, Jackson MS 39205

**PLEASE NOTE:** Church members may send a package of cards together;  
cards do not have to be sent individually to the wMu.

**House Tops**

## JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. RA Recognition, Bethel Church, Lawrence Association



2. Commissioning Service, Cairo Church, Ecru



3. Deacon Ordination, Wayside Church, Vicksburg



4. McGuffie and Welch, New Prospect Church, Brookhaven

1. **Bethel Church, Lawrence Association**, awarded RAs for their achievements Jan. 28. Their group is named for missionary Thomas Thurman who presented the message that morning. Shown, front row, are Brennan Lang, Preston Morrison, Blake Greenlee, and Neal Johnson; back row, Dick Reeves, Jonathan Reeves, Clayton Russell, Ben Rushing, and Thomas Thurman.

2. **Cairo Church, Ecru**, had a commissioning service for Winston and Mattie Ross (Mission Corp Volunteers) for their upcoming mission trip to Ohio. George Steward gave the message, Charles Stubblefield gave the Dedication prayer, and Sam Holcomb closed with prayer. William Dowdy, pastor. Shown, left to right, Dowdy, Steward, the Rosses, and Stubblefield.

3. **Wayside Church, Vicksburg**, ordained Roy Blissett as deacon Dec. 10. Shown are pastor Jason Wooley, Blissett, and Linda Blissett.

4. **New Prospect Church, Brookhaven**, ordained Jason McGuffie to the gospel ministry Jan. 21. Jason is serving as youth minister at New Prospect. Shown are McGuffie and pastor Willie Welch.

5. **Mission Friends of Mantee Church, Mantee**, pose for a Christmas card picture. The cards were sent to senior adults in their church and community, as well as their parents.

6. The Kids Adventure Group of Mt. Zion Church, Florence, decorated socks for Christmas and brought their money each week for two months. They raised \$385 for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, surpassing their goal of \$200. Shown are the participants.

7. The children of Antioch Church, Brandon, presented Signs of Christmas Dec. 10, 2006. Shown are the participants.

8. The RAs and GAs of Branch Church, Morton, are shown presenting their cans of coins for Lottie Moon. Twenty children participated in an IMB study on Nigeria and then crafted their collection tins. Shown, front, is Michael Latham; back row Autumn Cagle, Karleigh Mahathey, and Tyler Mahathey.



5. Mission Friends, Mantee Church, Mantee



6. Kids Adventure Group, Mt. Zion Church, Florence



7. Signs of Christmas, Antioch Church, Brandon



8. RAs and GAs, Branch Church, Morton



1. By The Tree to perform at Winter Fest 2007, BMC

1. Blue Mountain College will host Winter Fest 2007 on Saturday, February 10. Activities begin at 10:30 a.m. with a special preview day for high school juniors

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**601.957.3841**

and seniors and community college transfer students. Visiting students and parents will have the opportunity to meet with current BMC students, talk with financial aid staff, hear from BMC alumni, and attend a Topper basketball game. Area church youth groups are invited to the Winter Fest 2007 concert featuring musical guests, By The Tree, and Bible communicator, Johnny Cox. The concert will be held in the Berry Auditorium located in the Administration Building. Doors open at 6 p.m. All Winter Fest 2007 activities are free to the public. For more information or to make reservations, contact the Office of Admissions at Blue Mountain College at (800) 235-0136 or visit [www.bmc.edu](http://www.bmc.edu).

2. Mississippi College will host the second of two seminars on medical missions.

Dan Jones will be the featured speaker on March 1 at 7 p.m. in Anderson Hall. The seminar is sponsored by the MC Student Affiliate of the American Chemical Society and the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. There is no cost to attend and the public is welcome. For information please call the Mississippi College Department of Chemistry at (601) 925-3223.

3. Charles Ryan Thurman, Brookhaven, received the master of arts in Christian education at New Orleans Seminary Dec. 16. His home church is Oakland Heights Church, Longview, Tex. He holds an associate of arts from Copiah-Lincoln Community College, Wesson, and a bachelor of arts, William Carey College, Hattiesburg.
4. The music faculty at Blue Mountain College will present their spring recital on Tuesday evening, February 13, at 7:30 p.m. in Garrett Hall Auditorium located on the College campus. Jerri Lamar Kantack, Assistant Professor of Music, and Jeremy Owens, Instructor of Music, will present vocal and piano selections from J.S. Bach, Sergei Rachmaninoff, and Franz Schubert. Sarah Todd, clarinet, from Pontotoc will be performing with Kantack and Owens on Franz Schubert's The Shepherd on the Rock. Kantack, a Pontotoc native, received the Bachelor of Music and Masters of Music from The University of Mississippi and the Doctor of Musical



4. Kantack and Owens, BMC

Arts in Vocal Performance from The University of Alabama. Prior to teaching at Blue Mountain College, she taught at Huntingdon College (Montgomery, Ala.), Stillman College, Shelton State Community College (Tuscaloosa, Ala.), and Brenau University (Gainesville, Georgia). She has served as an adjudicator for many musical competitions in the north Mississippi area. In 2005,

Kantack was named the 2005 Humanities Teacher Award Recipient. Jeremy Owens, a native of North Dakota, is a two time winner of the MTNA Collegiate Artist Competition and has performed with orchestras in Mississippi, Alabama, North Dakota, and Minnesota. Currently, Owens is working on his Doctor of Musical Arts from The University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa. In 2006, Owens was named the 2006 Humanities Teacher Award Recipient. The concert is free to the public. For more information, contact Jim André in the Department of Fine Arts and Speech at (662) 685-4771, ext. 134.



MISSISSIPPI  
**BAPTISTS**

## MS POSITIONS

**THE METRO BAPTIST ASSOCIATION** is seeking resumes for the position of Associational Missions Director. Metro Association comprises Hinds and Madison counties. MBA has 82 churches and over 70,000 members. Resumes may be sent to: Search Committee; 6530 Dogwood View Parkway; Jackson, MS 39213. Deadline for receiving resumes is March 1, 2007.

resumes to search committee, 2878 Old Hwy 27, Vicksburg, MS 39180 or email to [chriscollins@rebweld.com](mailto:chriscollins@rebweld.com). Phone (601) 415-6122 or fax (601) 636-7574.

**FRANKLIN BAPTIST CHURCH** is seeking a Pastor, Youth Minister and Music Minister. Send resume to 2222 Cox Ferry Rd., Flora MS 39071.

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, PLANTERSVILLE, Miss.**, seeks a Part-time Youth Minister. Please submit resumes to First Baptist Church, P. O. Box 487, Plantersville, MS 38862, or email to [firstbaptist800@bellsouth.net](mailto:firstbaptist800@bellsouth.net).

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH NESBIT, MISS.**, is accepting resumes for Minister of Music. Part Time Permanent position, please send resumes to: [lynncbnesbit@bellsouth.net](mailto:lynncbnesbit@bellsouth.net).

**IMMANUEL BAPTIST CHURCH IN VICKSBURG, MISS., IS SEEKING INDIVIDUAL OR INDIVIDUALS TO FILL THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS: MINISTER OF MUSIC AND MINISTER OF YOUTH.** Any one that is interested, please send resume to Immanuel Baptist Church, Attention: Glenn Holder, PO Box 400, Madison MS 39130-0400 or email [gholder@fpcmadison.org](mailto:gholder@fpcmadison.org).

**MT. LIBERTY BAPTIST CHURCH, Water Valley, Miss.**, is seeking a full-time minister. Please submit resume to search committee, 906 Stephens Street, Water Valley, MS 38965 or call Betty Melton (662) 473-2095.

**HARRISVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH, Harrisville, Miss.**, is seeking a part-time youth minister/activities director. Resumes may be sent to Harrisville Baptist Church, P.O. Box 308, Harrisville, MS 39082.

**EPHESUS BAPTIST CHURCH IS SEEKING** a full-time Minister of Youth and Recreation. Job requires working with youth and children and Scheduling Family-Life Center events. Send resume to Dr. Jim Everett, 3495 Ephesus Road, Forest, MS 39074 or email: [jimincebc@earthlink.net](mailto:jimincebc@earthlink.net).

**PART-TIME MUSIC DIRECTOR NEEDED** at Elum Baptist Church, Quitman, Miss., Clarke County Association. If interested, please call pastor John Edwards at (601) 482-3119. Or write to 436 CR 472, Meridian, MS 39301.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**FINALLY AFFORDABLE HEALTH** Insurance for the self employed. Call (800) 541-8196. Provided by Mega Insurance, [www.christurner-ins.com](http://www.christurner-ins.com).

**REASONABLY PRICED INSURANCE:** Medicare supplements, major medical, & small group health insurance plans available for individuals & churches. Call Carra Turner (662) 231-4487 for rates or visit [www.carraturner.mymedquotes.com](http://www.carraturner.mymedquotes.com).

**ARKANSAS BAPTIST CHILDREN'S** Homes is seeking a house parent couple for the AR Baptist Boys Ranch. Call Bill VonderMehden at (870) 741-5784 or email [bwondermehden@abchomes.org](mailto:bwondermehden@abchomes.org). A Recreation Director and a single house parent (or couple) needed at the AR Baptist Home for Children. Call Randy Luper @ (870) 367-5358 or email [rluper@abchomes.org](mailto:rluper@abchomes.org).

**SEEKING FULL-TIME MINISTER OF STUDENTS.** Please send resume to personnel committee, Mt. Carmel Baptist Church, 8645 Kenwood Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45242.

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**"JOURNEY TO THE PROMISED LAND"** March 7-18, 2007 — \$3,107.00. Call for additional information/brochure. (662) 255-2024. Sponsored by Heavenly

Things Christian Bookstore.

**RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH**, Denham Springs, is seeking a full-time associate pastor of education/music. RBC is a conservative Baptist church with a traditional style of worship. Resumes may be mailed to Riverside Baptist Church, 36890 LA Hwy 16, Denham Springs, LA 70706 — attention: Staff Search Committee, or emailed to [rbcsbc@bellsouth.net](mailto:rbcsbc@bellsouth.net). Larry Hubbard is pastor.

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# BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

## Something You Must Do

John 3:1-8, 13-18

By Gloria Lofton

This week we continue with our study theme: Christianity is Christ. Last week we studied the deity of Jesus Christ in: The Word From God.

In our focal passage, John 3:1-3, we are told of a man named Nicodemus, who was a ruler of the Jews, which means he was a member of the Sanhedrin. The Sanhedrin was the supreme council of the Jews in the time of Christ and earlier. In the New Testament it is usually referred to simply as "the council." The power and influence of the Sanhedrin were greatest during the period of Roman rule in Palestine, and it served as a major instrument of justice among the Jews, handling all

matters pertaining to the Jewish Law and many criminal matters.

Nicodemus was very intelligent and deeply religious. Nicodemus wanted to know more, so he went to Jesus by night because he was afraid to seek Him openly. Even though Nicodemus was a deeply religious person, he was still in darkness about truths of God, and out of that darkness he came to the Light. (v. 2, KJV) The phrase "cannot see the kingdom of God" should be understood as cannot enter.

In verse 3, Jesus told Nicodemus, except a man be born again, he cannot enter the kingdom of heaven. (KJV) "Nicodemus saith unto Him, 'How can a man be born when he



Lofton

is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" (v. 4, KJV) The grammatical structure of this question expects a negative answer. "Jesus answered; verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man is born of water

and of the spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." (v. 5, KJV) Verse 6 tells us, "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is Spirit." (KJV) Jesus is saying that flesh can only produce itself as flesh. The law of reproduction said "after its kind." So likewise, the Spirit produces spirit, a life born, nurtured, and matured by the Spirit of God.

In verse 13, Jesus says, "And no one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven, even the Son of Man. (NASB) Here Jesus is affirming that He came from heaven. Then in verses 14-15, Jesus points to His crucifixion and the necessity

of being lifted up, so we as sinners would have hope of eternal life. People are looking for life, for that which makes their existence meaningful. Jesus offers the truest form of life- eternal life to those who believe in Him. "In Him is life and the life is the light of men." (John 1:4).

John 3:16 is probably the most beloved verse in the Bible. It is one of the first verses memorized by children. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish, but have everlasting life." (KJV) It is an eternal fact that God loves you with an everlasting love that cannot be fathomed; it is so boundless that it can only be known by faith. The little word "so" is most expressive in this verse, it gives us some concept of the magnitude of God's love. God so loves us, that He gave His only begotten (unique, one of a kind) Son to be made sin: for us that we might be made that which God loves; right-

eousness. The breadth of the divine love is emphasized in that its object is the whole world. "For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved.

He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not on Him is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. Verse 18 (KJV) There is little doubt that Nicodemus became a true disciple. (John 7:50-52; John 19:39) What about you? Have you been born again; born from above? If you haven't, I pray you will by faith, believe that Jesus Christ is the savior of the world, repent and confess your sins, for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Ask God to cleanse your heart and give you new life in Him, for in Him and Him alone can we be born again.

Lofton is a member of Willow Grove Church, Collins.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### When Service is Risky

Esther 3:1-4:17

By Tim Alexander

I just recently went on a mission trip to Honduras, Central America. I was on a medical, dental, evangelistic, construction mission trip. This was my fifth trip to this beautiful country that is so poverty stricken. Although our lives were not in danger, many missionaries in foreign lands are on the front lines, in the trenches of ministry where their lives are on the line. Risk is part of the job of every missionary. Risk is part of life that is unavoidable. Someone once told me, "Accept life as a challenge, not a threat." Queen Esther found herself in a challenging dilemma; to speak or not to speak to the king regarding an important issue. She made the right decision but it was at a great risk.

#### 1. Following God Includes Loyalty, (Esther 3:2, 5-6)

King Xerxes promoted Haman giving him a seat of honor above other nobles. Haman was an Agagite, a descendant of the Amalekite King Agag. The Amalekites, from the land of Canaan, had persistently opposed the Jews. After Haman had been elevated to his new status, the royal staff was ordered to bow. Mordecai refused to bow down to Haman. The Bible does not clearly state why Mordecai refused. Two possible reasons do exist. First to a Jew, bowing down to a person is a form of idolatry. Second, Mordecai knew that Haman's ancestors feverishly opposed the Jews and he probably knew Haman would also be a "thorn in the flesh" to the Jews as well.



Alexander

When Haman discovered that Mordecai did not bow down to him, Haman was filled with rage. Revenge for Haman meant a plan to kill all the Jews in King Xerxes kingdom. Mordecai was not the only person in the Bible who refused to

bow down. The three Hebrew children did not bow down to Nebuchadnezzar's golden image. Nebuchadnezzar acted like Haman, except he aimed his anger at the three young men. As you will see, God protected the three Hebrew children as well as He did Mordecai.

#### 2. Following God Includes Understanding, (Esther 4:5,8-9)

Approximately fifteen million Jewish lives in the Persian Empire were on the line because of Haman's anger and the King's stupidity. All of these Jews were destined to an early death, unless something was done. Since the Persian Empire stretched from India to Ethiopia there was no place to run and hide.

Mordecai learned about the plan to slaughter the Jews. He put on the traditional mourning clothing of sackcloth and ashes. Jews around the empire grieved about the upcoming disaster. They fasted, prayed and wept and asked God to change the king's decree.

After hearing about Mordecai's plight, Queen Esther sent some clean cloths to Mordecai through her servant. Mordecai, at that time, told the queen's servant of Haman's evil plot to kill the Jews. Mordecai actually had a copy of the edict to give to the queen's servant.

#### 3. Following God May Include Risk, (Esther 4:10-16)

The Queen was in a difficult situation. She wanted to help Mordecai, but she also knew that going to see the king without an invitation or summons was breaking the law, and she could be put to death. The only exception to that law is if the King extends the gold scepter to her and spares her life. Through another conversation with the queen's servant,

Mordecai reminds Esther that she was in this royal position "for such a time as this."

Esther did not talk to Mordecai directly, but she knew she could not remain silent. Esther made up her mind to talk to the king after much fasting and prayer. She said "if I perish, I perish." What a risky decision Esther had made. Esther was willing to risk her own life to save the lives of others, talk about the ultimate sacrifice. If you were Esther, would you speak out or remain silent? Esther had confidence in a Holy God who would protect her, one way or another.

God always accomplishes his purposes through people. God is also in the business of protecting his people from harm or walking people through the "valley and shadow of death." As God used Esther may He use our voices to be His instruments of peace, to bring life and light to this dark world.

Alexander is Minister of Education, Harrisburg Church, Tupelo.

## Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

# THE BAPTIST Record

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted.

Photograph attachments are permissible. Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts

are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to crop-

ping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape-, building-, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

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### Bibliocipher

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PVCRV KSWW; TLK D  
SYAW PVCRV KSWW, YVE  
KSWNW SYAW PVCRV  
KSYK KSCL SYNK NWVK  
BW.

OCSV NWAWVKWWV:

KRWVKI-QDAW

Clue: P = K

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Luke Twenty-one:Thirty-four.



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1. Adults trip, Concord Church, Benton-Tippah Association



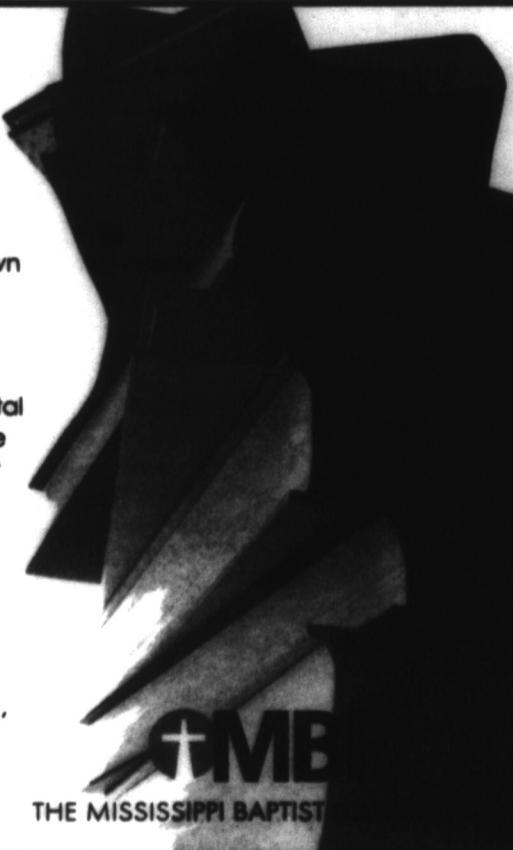
2. DiscipleNow, Bethsaida Church, Philadelphia



3. Deacon Ordinations, Gore Springs Church, Gore Springs



4. Deacon Ordinations, Alexander Memorial Church, Washington Co.



5. Walker and Brister honored, First Church, Terry